Board have also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaign in U.K.

In order to improve standards of packaging in respect of tea produced in India, exporters have been advised time and again to improve the packaging standards so as to match the international requirements. A scheme sponsored by Tea Board for improvement of packaging of tea specially for the purpose of export has been launched recently by the Indian Institute of Packaging.

TEA PRODUCTION

2366. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's tea production is not likely to touch the target fixed during 1993;

(b) if so what is the target and the likely production; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Targets for production of tea is fixed on the basis of financial year i.e. April to March. For 1993-94, it is fixed at 730 million kgs. subject to favourable weather conditions. Given the present trend, this target is likely to be achieved with a production slightly over 730 million kgs.

(c) Does not arise.

LOANS FOR PRAWN FARMING

2367. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government are granting loans for prawn farming which is a foreign exchange earning trade; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to investigate areas where this industry may be started with Central Aid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No Sir, Government does not provide any loan. However many commercial and scheduled banks and other financial institutions like IFCI, IRBI, ICICI are providing loans to support techno economically viable aquaculture projects.

(b) Besides credit facilities as above MPEDA provide subsidy assistance as well as equity participation.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING DUMPING

2368. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been complaints of dumping Industries; if so, the names of the Industries effected because of the dumping;

(b) what measures Government propose to take to arrest the dumping; and

(c) whether Government would consider short listing the items being dumped thereby affected the Indian Industries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Designated Authority, under the Indian Customs Tariff Act 1975 as Amended in 1982 and the Customs Tariff Rules there under, has received complaints from the domestic industry alleging dumping of certain Chemicals, petrochemicals, drugs and intermediates etc.

The Designated Authority initiated antidumping investigations concerning import of PVC Resin, Styrene Butadiene Rubber and Bisphenol-A. The authority has recommended imposition of anti dumping duty on import of PVC Resin. In its preliminary findings concerning import of Bisphenol-A the authority found a dumping

margin of 28.9 per cent. The Designated Authority terminated investigation into the allegation of dumping of Styrene Butadiene Rubber as no injury to the domestic industry could be made out.

The Designated Authority is required to satisfy itself about prima facie evidence of dumping, injury to the domesic industry and a casual link between the dumped imports and the alleged injury, before deciding to initiate an anti-dumping investigation.

BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR PLANTATION CROPS

2369. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Commerce Ministry has suggested budgetary support in 1994-95 for increasing the competitiveness of our plantation crop exports like cashew-nuts and tobacco;

(b) whether it is a fact that primary producers of tobacco and cashewnuts in Andhra Pradesh have been representing their problems to Government; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to aid their plantation crop, so as to enhance their competitive advantage in exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh have represented about lower price realisations at the auctions during 1993, and for bigger crop size for tobacco for the 1993 crop.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture has a number of schemes to increase the production and productivity of raw cashewnuts. These include :

(i) production and supply of quality planting material;

(ii) replantation programme;

(iii) popularising scientific cultivation ;

(iv) scheme for plantation in wastelands;

Tobacco Board has the following programmes for tobacco :

(i) continued implementation of development schemes to improve the yield and quality of tobacco;

(ii) disseminate latest research findings to growers through training, extension and study tours;

(iii) monitor pesticide residues and take necessary corrective steps.

Introduction of unified exchange rate, doing away with compulsory pre-shipment inspection on the export of agricultural commodities subject to certain conditions are some of the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of these commodities at competitive level. Apart from this, various Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils, participate in exhibitions abroad and arrange buyer-seller meets to have inter-action with importers in other countries. In addition, these organisations sponsor delegations to countries which have potential for improving exports.

NEW ORIENTATION TO TOBACCO BOARD

2370. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to give a new orientation to the Tobacco Board;

(b) whether the Tobacco Board has been unable to cope with the requirements of the traders and farmers;

(c) whether it is a fact that farmers and traders have to constantly represent their problems to Government; and

(d) what steps are being taken to review the functioning of the Tobacco Boards ?